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Advancement of women

Letter dated 18 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach the text of a resolution adopted by the Foreign Relations Committee of the Uzbek Senate containing information regarding the measures being taken in the Republic of Uzbekistan in the course of implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64.

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Annex to the letter dated 18 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Resolution of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan on its implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Republic of Uzbekistan, in accordance with its National Platform and Plan of Action for Implementing the United Nations Committee's Recommendations, has made consistent efforts to implement the Convention. Implementation of the measures provided for has led to significant successes in securing real gender equality, eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, and effectively protecting their rights.

Uzbekistan, the first country in the region to accede to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, has made further improvement of national legislation and reinforcement of the Convention's main provisions in the country's laws a high priority. Significant work has been done to institutionalize the defence of women's rights and to ensure their full-fledged participation in public, political, socio-economic, and cultural life. The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Additional Measures to Strengthen Social Protection for Women, of 25 May 2004, was very important in this regard. The legal basis for ensuring women's rights and freedoms in the Republic comprises 22 laws, 11 Presidential decrees, 22 Cabinet of Ministers resolutions, and five departmental regulatory acts.

The Republic has formed an Interdepartmental Coordinating Council to ensure interaction among the agencies involved in improving the status of women, as well as a group to monitor implementation of the United Nations Committee's recommendations and those set forth in national and international documents on women's rights. A permanent commission has been created to coordinate the activities of State agencies and public organizations towards implementing a programme of measures and making the work with women more efficient. Uzbekistan has ensured that women are represented in all branches of government and has carried out goal-oriented work aimed at selecting, training, and promoting women to leadership positions. Women also play an important role in local self-government bodies. As civil society develops in the country, so too will the public activism of women's non-governmental organizations.

Of utmost importance has been the achievement of real equality in education, as a result of which Uzbekistan's women have one of the highest literacy levels in the world. They work in all leading branches of industry, and the State has created the essential legal guarantees for working women with respect to their social protection in industry. The number of women in business and farming is on the rise.

Safeguarding maternal and infant health has been the focus of special attention in the country. In all regions, the State has created marriage and family centres, screening centres, and genetic services and has implemented State programmes to improve the health of women of childbearing age. As a result of this work, maternal and infant mortality rates have declined significantly in recent years.

Nonetheless, quite a few questions and problems remain in this very important sphere and demand unflagging attention. Several measures in the National Plan of Action to implement the United Nations Committee's Recommendations have yet to be implemented. The effort to create real mechanisms for bringing women fully into the economy and improve their working conditions and defence of their rights when they are violated must be intensified. This sphere demands further attention, particularly through improved legislation, educational work by the mass media, and the introduction of gender disciplines in the system of secondary and higher education. It is important to set up an efficient system for gender expert analysis of legislation and bills, prepare and publish appropriate methodological materials, and educate the leaders of State organs about international standards in gender issues.

Having heard and discussed the issue of the implementation in the Republic of Uzbekistan of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Senate Foreign Policy Committee has resolved:

- To note that significant work has been done in the Republic of Uzbekistan to implement the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the National Platform, and the Plan of Action for Implementing the Recommendations of the United Nations Committee;
- In order to ensure further implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and associated measures provided for by national documents, to deem it necessary;
- To improve existing national mechanisms in this sphere and to strengthen gender awareness in the activities of ministries and departments and socio-economic development programmes;
- To conduct a system-wide gender analysis of existing laws and bills that will result in amendments and additions to current national legislation;
- To recommend that the Ministry of Justice coordinate expert analysis of the draft bills on State guarantees of equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men, on eliminating domestic and other forms of violence, and on reproductive health, to be submitted in accordance with established procedure to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis;
- To recommend that law-enforcement agencies, local government, other interested ministries and departments, public associations, and the mass media work harder to end all types of violence and crimes against women. Implementation of these measures should be at the forefront of parliamentary oversight;

- To recommend that the National Human Rights Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan widely publicize the provisions of the national report on implementation of the Convention and the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
- To recommend that the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Justice, the National Human Rights Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Mekhr public association conduct a training seminar for leaders of State agencies, as well as senators and deputies from the Legislative Chamber, on international standards for gender issues;
- To send this decision to the appropriate ministries, departments, and organizations;
- To submit information on the results of the consideration of this resolution to the Senate of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan by 1 June 2006.